

Conserving the Future

WILDLIFE REFUGES & THE NEXT GENERATION

Giving the Land a Voice!

From the wilds of Alaska to the city of Philadelphia to the coastlines east and west, the National Wildlife Refuge System manages a network of land and water for the conservation of wildlife. This system protects:

- Vast wilderness areas, the size of some states;
- Space for free roaming animals like, elk and American buffalo;
- Resting and breeding habitat for flocks of migratory birds;
- Flora critical to breeding butterflies;
- The rarest creatures on earth like the piping plover of the Great Lakes or Key deer in Florida.

Although wildlife comes first, refuges are not just for animals.

People can:

- Photograph migration spectacles and scenic vistas;
- Experience field trips to learn about careers in wild land firefighting or seabird biology;
- Hunt big game like moose or prowl for waterfowl;
- Angle for a wide variety of fish;
- Visit one of many refuge visitor centers to learn about how to protect these special wild places. To find a refuge near you visit <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/>.

Multi-media Contest

Conservation leaders throughout the country will gather in Madison, Wisconsin this July to determine the future of the National Wildlife Refuge System. They need to know what YOU think about what will become of YOUR future.

They need YOU to answer the question: *What kind of future do you want for America's wildlife and wildlands?* Submit your answer via:

- 18"X 24" digital poster, collage or other still art or display;
- 3 minute audio or video podcast;
- Maximum of a 1,000 word essay or short story or poetry.

The contest is open to youth ages 15-24. Winners will be selected from different age groups and media categories.



Additional Prizes

- \$200, \$100, and \$50 gift cards to an outdoor recreation store
- Smithsonian Book of National Wildlife Refuges by Eric Jay Dolin
- National Wildlife Refuge stainless steel water bottles
- Blue Goose Passport
- And more!

Get Creative!

Your submission could include one or a combination of:

- Poem, song, rap, spoken word;
- Original artwork;
- Short dance, play, or animation;
- Interviews of family, friends, neighbors, or local heroes;
- Still photo journal with captions or audio (all photos should be public domain or taken by you).

Prizes

First Place winners will receive airfare and accommodations to attend the “Conserving the Future” conference in Madison, July 11-15, 2011, to present their entries. Winners will also receive an official award and recognition from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and represent youth across the country in deciding the future of America’s wildlife and the National Wildlife Refuge System. This conference will be a rare opportunity when many of the country’s conservation leaders are gathered in one place and will offer unparalleled networking opportunities in the conservation field!

Second and third place winners will receive a combination of the prizes listed to the left. Second place winners will also serve as alternates for first place winners if they are unable to attend the conference.

Your Approach

We’ve given you the WHAT (poster, audio or video podcast, or written media) and the very broad question: *What kind of future do you want for America’s wildlife and wildlands?* It’s up to you to decide the HOW!

You may have to do some research to learn more, but here are some prompts to get you started.

- The National Wildlife Refuge System was built with the help of conservation heroes: like Paul Kroeger, Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson. What does today’s conservation hero look like, and how do they compare to those of the past?
- We are faced with overwhelming environmental challenges- climate change, habitat loss and species extinction. National Wildlife Refuges are important tools to solve these problems. How should we use refuges and the communities surrounding them to overcome these challenges?
- Many of our nation’s citizens live in cities far from the wildlife and habitats protected by the National Wildlife Refuge System. If you were the Director of the National Wildlife Refuge System, how would you connect these citizens to these places that they may never see or visit?
- Aldo Leopold said, *“There are two things that interest me: the relation of people to each other and the relation of people to land.”* What is your personal relationship to the land and its wildlife?

Email submissions are due by
Midnight on May 27, 2011.

CD or DVD submissions must
be postmarked by
May 27, 2011.

**Judging and
Selection of Winners**

Entries will be judged
by USFWS and NWRA
employees based on the
following judging criteria:

- (i) Artistic merit;
- (ii) Creativity;
- (iii) Communication of the
contest theme: *What
kind of future do you
want for America's
wildlife and wildlands?*
- (iv) Whether the
submission adheres
to the contest rules.



Submissions

Digital Poster: (painting, mural, mix media, photograph, text, narrative)
18" x 24" JPEG file with Low (level 10 or 12) compression at minimum
200 dpi or PDF file saved for High Quality (Print) output

Audio: 3-minute WAV or mp3 file (min 128 kilobit/second) format

Video: 3-minute maximum, minimum 640 x 480 resolution at 30
frames per second MPEG-2 file compatible with Windows Media Player

Essay, short story or poem: 1000 word maximum, formatted as an
electronic Text File: TXT format

Send your submission, completed entry form and release form to the
appropriate locations below.

For files less than 10 MB, please email to:

NWRS_VisionContest@fws.gov

For files 10 MB or greater, please send a CD or DVD to:

Giving the Land a Voice Contest
National Wildlife Refuge Association
1250 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington DC 20036

**Please do not send hard copies of your work. They will not be
returned to you.**

Contest Rules

Each entry must be original work by the person who enters it into the contest. Judges
reserve the right to combine or subdivide the categories, and judges will decide
which category best suits each entry. Judges' decisions are final and binding.

Entries with inappropriate content will be disqualified including but not limited to
crude gestures, foul language, content not related to the theme, inappropriate
clothing, and depicting any activities in violation of state or federal laws.

First place winners will not receive compensation in lieu of attending the conference.
First place winners and second place alternates under the age of 18 will be required
to travel with a parent or legal guardian. The airfare and accommodations for that
parent or legal guardian will also be paid for by the contest.

Void where prohibited. Contest is open to legal residents of the United States and
the District of Columbia. All federal, state, and local laws apply. Permanent U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Service and National Wildlife Refuge Association employees are not
eligible for the contest, but we encourage interns, seasonal employees, Student
Conservation Association, and Youth Conservation Corps enrollees to submit entries.
USFWS and its partners are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged entries.

We will accept only one submission per person. Age categories are determined by
your age on July 15, 2011. In the event that there are not enough eligible entries, not
all prizes will be awarded. If a winner is unable for whatever reason to accept a prize,
then USFWS reserves the right to award the prize to another entrant.

Submissions will be posted or linked to www.americaswildlife.org and become part
of the collective vision for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Winners will be
notified by June 17, 2011. You will not receive notification if you did not win a prize,
but the names of the winners will be posted on the website above between June 17
and July 11, 2011.